



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

VOL. XII

JULY, 1912

NO. 10

EDITORIAL COMMENT



THE CHICAGO CONVENTIONS

THE Chicago Conventions were the greatest ever held, both in geographical representation and in numbers. The papers and reports at both the meetings of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools and the American Nurses' Association showed more definite progress than in any one year since the movement for state registration began. The opening session of the Superintendent's Society on Monday morning was more than ordinarily well attended. The afternoon meeting was crowded and when the advance guard of the American Nurses' Association began to arrive on Tuesday, the hall was packed to the doors. It soon became evident that when the full membership of the two societies came together the great assembly hall of the Auditorium Hotel would be entirely inadequate to hold them and through the good management of the committee of arrangements, of which Miss Ahrens was the chairman, Orchestra Hall, two blocks down the avenue, was secured and was filled to the doors at each session with delegates and visitors from every state in the Union and Canada. A most inspiring and wonderful sight, the like of which no nurse present had ever seen.

The one great disappointment of the occasion was the absence of the president of the American Nurses' Association, Miss Sly, who was unable to be present because of illness, but so carefully had she planned for every move on the programme, that the two vice-presidents, Mrs. Colvin and Miss Nichols, were in turn able to conduct the meetings with commendable smoothness, under the guiding hand of Miss Deans, the secretary, who had been in close touch with Miss Sly during the year.

The secretary's report of the proceedings of the Superintendent's Society is found on another page and some of the papers presented at that meeting will be printed later in this JOURNAL, and the full proceedings of the American Nurses' Association will be printed in the August number, which will be given over as usual entirely to this report.

The most important business before the Superintendent body was the revision of the constitution and by-laws with the proposed change of name, a matter which had been under discussion for many years, but about which the members have never been able to agree. Without much discussion, and entirely without disagreement, the recommendation of the committee that the name be changed to the National League of Nursing Education was adopted, and it was voted to make application for affiliation with the American Nurses' Association.

For the first time, section meetings were planned for as a regular part of the programme of the American Nurses' Association, and proved to be a necessity in providing for so large an attendance. The social workers, including visiting nurses, school nurses, tuberculosis nurses and every other kind of a nurse in the social field, turned out in such forces that they made practically a good sized convention of their own. An organization was effected to be known as the National Association of Public Health Nurses, including all of those enumerated above, and this association, like the newly named National League for Nursing Education, made application for affiliation with the American Nurses' Association. When the necessary technicalities have been adjusted we shall have, as the name implies, all the different kinds of organizations of nurses so combined that the American Nurses' Association will be truly representative of the nursing interests of the country and the American Federation of Nurses goes out of existence. This change of name of the Superintendents' Association and the organization of the social workers and their affiliation with the American Nurses' Association have been brought about in the most harmonious spirit and is the greatest evidence that could possibly have been presented of the unity which exists between the nurses of this great country.

The social side was all that the programme promised but was carried out with a simplicity that was not only most delightful but was an example to members in other places to follow when planning to entertain the convention. As a matter of fact, this meeting in Chicago demonstrated that our American Nurses' Association has entirely outgrown the accommodations of a moderate sized city unless the custom can be established of the convention paying all of its own expenses, for the social

as well as the business side of the meetings and with this end in view, Atlantic City was selected for the meeting place next year.

An interesting addition to the programme which came as a surprise to every one was the presence on the second day of two prominent members of the Japanese Red Cross, who had come to this country to attend the International Congress in Washington and who were stopping in Chicago on their way home—Baron Ozawa the first vice-president of the Japanese Red Cross and Mr. Togo, secretary of that society. Baron Ozawa read an address in the Japanese language which was afterwards translated by Mr. Togo and was expressive of deep appreciation of the kind of service which nurses were rendering to humanity. These gentlemen were greatly interested in the convention and also gave close attention to the exhibit of the 23 nursing text-books which were written by nurses, shown upon the JOURNAL table, ordering a number of copies, to take with them to Japan.

There were a number of resolutions passed of interest to nurses everywhere, the first in importance to the great rank and file being a condemnation of the practice of the wearing of the uniform on the street and a protest against the custom of utilizing pupils in training, in uniform on tag day and of sometimes fixing the date of such days when it was known that a convention of men was to be held in a city. This same practice in the sale of the Red Cross seal was deplored.

A committee was appointed to ask for a conference with the committee of the American Medical Association, which has for the past year been making a study of hospitals and training schools for nurses.

Miss Riddle, the chairman of the committee on the corporate seal, submitted several designs. It was decided to adopt one of the suggestions, the portrait of Linda Richards, the first nurse in America, to be used in the design of the face. Miss Riddle brought out the fact that the nursing service of Japan was inaugurated by Miss Richards who, under the American Board of Missions, spent five years in training the first class of Japanese nurses.

Announcement was made of the ownership of the JOURNAL by the American Nurses' Association, all of the stock, with the exception of one share, having been transferred and only a legal technicality requiring a little time preventing the completion of this transfer. It was shown that every nurse who was a member of any association affiliated with the American Nurses' Association was now equally an owner with every other nurse of this JOURNAL.

A motion was made by Miss Goodrich and seconded by Miss Palmer that the American Nurses' Association endorse Woman's Suffrage. After

a brief discussion this was carried but not unanimously. This marks a step forward.

In the plans of the affiliation of the National League of Nursing Education and the National Association of Public Health Nurses, amendments to the by-laws of the American Nurses' Association were proposed, the executive committee of that association to be increased to 9, 7 of these to be directors of the American Nurses' Association, one the president of the National League of Nursing Education and one the president of the National Association of Public Health Nurses. The presidents of these two associations are members ex-officio of the board of directors without a vote.

From every great gathering like this in Chicago we learn a lesson for the betterment of the organization. Last year the need of section meetings where groups of workers could come together for closer conference was apparent to every one and the experiment as tried out in Chicago so successfully will undoubtedly become an established custom.

This year the necessity of holding strictly to the programme was evident, at least until those who are present to give their reports and papers have been heard, a time limit for every one, such limit to be enforced.

The suggestion has been made that papers of any length shall be printed before the convention and distributed, or printed in the JOURNAL, that only an abstract shall be given at the meeting, so that those who are interested in a subject shall be prepared to discuss it without so much time being given to the reading of the full text of the paper. This is done in some large conventions.

We were urged by a group of half a dozen or more nurses to open up again the subject of permanent membership in the American Nurses' Association. These nurses had attended from three to six meetings but not consecutively. One or two had been sent once or twice as delegates, others had paid all their expenses to as many as six national conventions, but the restricting duties of private nursing had made it impossible to attend the three consecutive meetings, even if they could have been sent as delegates. We think there is cause for dissatisfaction and in the broadening of the lines, a way can be found in the near future for the recognition of such private duty nurses as demonstrate their interest in our national organization by paying their own expenses for attendance three times. Applicants for such membership would of course have to be members in good standing of an affiliated association and be properly endorsed.

Another suggestion that we have to submit in view of the rapid

growth of the American Nurses' Association is a change in the form of government of the society. Such gatherings as we had in Chicago are too unwieldly for the transaction of any important business. Have we not reached the point in our development when we should have our great American Nurses' Association with its twenty-five thousand members governed by a house of delegates? Broadly speaking, this would mean that the official delegates would meet a day in advance and transact all business of the association.

We believe that with the broadening of the American Nurses' Association, which will so increase the membership, a careful study of this question will soon have to be undertaken.

It is impossible to give any adequate idea of the inspiration of such a gathering as this in Chicago to nurses who have never attended one of our great conventions. That we are forging ahead on educational lines with greater rapidity than ever before was apparent to every one. That we are standing more solidly together for those things which make for the more efficient care of the sick and for the better recognition of nurses was most gratifying to those who have been toiling for so many years to this end. With our National Association so strengthened by the affiliation of the League and the Public Health Nurses, definite results will come more rapidly with each year.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

At this time of the year the editor's desk is piled up with addresses given at graduating exercises by physicians, clergymen, members of boards of managers and nurses. It is our rule not to publish such addresses unless they are in some way unusual. They are all interesting and valuable in their place, but we would not have space for anything else if we were to give place to all of such material as comes to our hand during the year. We have in the present JOURNAL made an exception as we do occasionally and give two such addresses, one by Annie W. Goodrich, R.N., and the other by Dr. Richard Olney Beard, two advanced thinkers along the lines of nursing education, a nurse, a superintendent, a state inspector, and a physician and college professor. These papers are interesting and valuable as showing how nursing education and the place of the nurse as a social worker and educator are being recognized by men and women who see beyond the horizon.

The August JOURNAL will contain only the reports and proceedings of the Chicago Convention. All other reports will hold over until the September issue. Members who wish to secure extra copies of the Con-

vention number should send their orders to the Philadelphia office before July 20 with the money, twenty-five cents per copy.

THE AWAKENING

NANCY E. CADMUS, R.N., superintendent of the Manhattan Maternity and Dispensary of New York City, and a member of the Nurse Board of Examiners of the state, has sent us this little paper to which we add our editorial endorsement. Miss Cadmus writes:

"Many of the readers of this article will, I am confident, recall to mind frequent instances when, particularly in the earlier days of state registration for nurses, their approaches to nurses upon the subject of securing registration were met again and again by the reply, 'Why should I bother to register, can I not practise nursing just the same without the R.N.? I cannot see where it means any benefit to me.' Often we have been pained by the apparently selfish view taken by those who should have been broad enough to see into the future, and not been so entirely influenced by the question of personal gain. But, now in a way we are having our victory, and our sympathies do not make overdue haste to go out to those who come to us bemoaning their ill fortune in being obliged to submit to the registration requirements, or content themselves with a status below what their training would naturally entitle them to possess. I chance to know of an instance where the majority of a class in a registered school whose superintendent was most thoroughly in sympathy with all progressive movements, decided that they as a class would not seek registration, nor did they, with but few noble exceptions of those whose individuality was strong enough to withstand the short-sighted influence of the majority. Strange to relate quite a number of this class now prefer institutional or social work, but find that desirable positions are not open to the unregistered nurse. I might also add the superintendent did not know of this decision of this class until some years after, but their unwillingness to register was the cause of much anxiety and mortification to her at the time.

"The 'Awakening' has come; graduate nurses find they cannot possibly enjoy the same standing without as with registration; they soon learn an application for a position in practically any one of the many channels now open to the trained nurse is of very little use unless she is registered.

"It seemed to the writer a most opportune moment to sound a note of warning to the oncoming graduates. It is far easier to work through these examinations when fresh from the training school than to wait even one year.

"To appeal solely to the sordid side of the question, namely, the personal benefit to the individual nurse, is not taking a high-minded attitude in the question, hence I would draw attention to the other phase, namely, what the individual nurse's duty is to the profession as well as to herself.

"That registration has begotten good results is an indisputable fact, as evidenced by the improvement in the living conditions for nurses in training, the efforts of many to make the nurses' hours less lengthy and arduous, by procuring paid instruction for the nurses, by the wide recognition of trained nursing as a profession, by the increased objection to permitting the undergraduate nurses to be sent out from the hospital to do private duty, and the efforts towards obtaining in some and the positive demands in other instances for the recognition of higher educational standards.

"Very few reputable physicians or hospitals are willing to employ other than registered nurses. Those seeking positions on boards of health, school board nurses, and positions in the great industrial, social and philanthropic schemes of the day quickly see the necessity of giving proof of their professional status.

"I understand that the Henry Street Settlement of New York City requires that its staff of nurses be registered, beginning with those composing the present staff, all being required to take the next state board examinations if not already registered.

"Also it has been rumored that one of the leading commercial registries of New York City contemplates making registration a requirement for membership.

"All goes to show the tendency of the times as it affects this particular vocation, and, while there is much left to be accomplished, much to be regretted, still there is more to make the optimistic view justifiable.

"It is only too true that in our own state there are those obtaining registration under the waiver that are not altogether a credit to our profession, but, did any educational scheme ever secure a good degree of perfection without experiencing various drawbacks?

"If *all* nurses in good standing back in 1903, and all who have graduated since then could have seen their duty in a larger way, the comparatively few undesirables would have made very little impression.

"New York City and State have been quoted because the writer is familiar with conditions there, and is not risking statements which cannot be substantiated, but the above facts and results are only typical of what has been accomplished in many other states.

"We *all* who compose this body of women known as trained nurses, holding credentials from reputable schools, should feel the responsibility of the future of our work, and not confine ourselves to seeking personal benefits, but rather give of ourselves in every possible way to further the progress of the nursing profession in promoting and maintaining high standards of living and action."

A NEW FIELD FOR THE NURSE

MISS SARAH F. MARTIN has been made chief of the bureau to enforce the ten-hour law for working women in Maryland, with headquarters in Baltimore. She has been selected for this position because of her experience in the executive work of a hospital. Miss Martin comes from Massachusetts. She had her training as a nurse at the Boston and Massachusetts General Hospital School for Nurses and she has been for many years Miss Packard's able assistant at the Robert Garrett Hospital for Children in Baltimore. She is perhaps best known to our readers as a leader in the central registry movement.

Miss Martin's work will be the enforcement of that portion of the law which reads:

"No female shall be employed or permitted to work in any manufacturing, mechanical, mercantile, printing, baking or laundering establishment more than 10 hours in any one day, nor more than 60 hours in any one week, nor more than eight hours in one day if any part of her work is done before 6 in the morning or after 10 at night."

This law applies equally to the factory or shop employing one woman or one hundred women. The first work of the bureau will be to collect statistics to ascertain how many women are employed and under what conditions they are working.